

If I am wrong, I shall be only too glad to be put right, and am quite open to conviction, but so far I must admit that I still stick to my own opinion that birds and beasts show much more intelligence and reasoning power than we give them credit for.

C. H. DONALD, F.Z.S.

BUSHAHIR STATE, SIMLA DIST., 20th September 1909.

No. XXVI.—EXTENSION OF THE HABITAT OF THE SAND SNAKE (*ERYX JACULUS*).

Major O. A. Smith, among other snakes collected in Jhelum, has sent me a single small specimen of the Sand Snake (*Eryx jaculus*). This widely distributed species is reported by Boulenger (Cat. Vol. 1, p. 126) from the Ionian Islands and Greece in the West, Northern Africa, South West and Central Asia as far North as Turkestan, to the Western Afghan Boundary. Dr. Annandale has also recorded it from Seistan (Mem. As. Soc. Bengal, Vol. 1, No. 10, p. 200). As far as I am aware, it has never been reported farther east, so that its occurrence in the Indus Basin is a considerable extension of its previously known zone of distribution. It appears to me extremely likely that it has been encountered in the Indus Basin before, but taken for its common Indian relative *E. conicus*, but the sharp rostral transverse ridge, which is not seen in *conicus* is very distinct in this specimen. There are 9 quite smooth scales between the eyes, and the costals number at a point two heads-lengths behind the head 46, at midbody 52, and two heads-lengths before the vent 36. The ventrals are 189, and the subcaudals 30 of which the anterior 24 are entire. The anal shield is entire and narrower than the ventrals (about two-thirds).

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CHITRAL, 15th October 1909.

No. XXVII.—A SECOND SPECIMEN OF THE SNAKE *OLIGODON ERYTHROGASTER* FROM THE EASTERN HIMALAYAS.

In 1907* Mr. Boulenger described this species from a single specimen obtained at Nagarkote, Nepal (6,000 feet) which is now preserved in the Indian Museum, Calcutta. I have just received another specimen from Tindharia which must have been collected at an altitude below 2,800 feet, and as no figure appeared with the original description, I herewith attach outline drawings to show the cephalic lepidosis.

I think there can be no doubt that this is the snake to which Dr. Günther † refers which Hodgson obtained in Nepal and made coloured drawings of, which he presented to the British Museum. Dr. Günther at first referred these to *S. octolineatus*, but subsequently expressed the opinion that they represented a species up to that time unknown.

* Rec. Ind. Mus. Vol 1. pt. iii.

† Rept. Brit. Ind. 1864, p. 206.